



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021

No. 108

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 22, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### HOLDING CHINA ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, I rise once again to bring attention to the Chinese Communist Party's role in this public health and economic crisis and to call for a full congressional investigation into the origin of the virus.

Day after day, we learn more facts and evidence that confirm what we

have expected from the beginning: The Chinese Communist Party intentionally covered up the COVID-19 outbreak, squandering valuable time, creating dangerous misinformation, and, ultimately, costing lives.

Over a year ago, the China Task Force began raising real questions about the origin of the virus. At that time, the mainstream media and others dismissed our concerns. Despite their objections, we continued in our efforts to expose this coverup.

Now, after lives and livelihoods have been destroyed, President Biden and the Democrats finally are asking questions about this virus. They finally are waking up to reality.

Not only did this pandemic start in China, but the World Health Organization acted as a willing pawn of the Chinese Government to cover up this virus and hide it from the world.

After taking office, one of President Biden's first actions was rejoining the World Health Organization at taxpayer expense, without requiring a single reform to its corrupt culture.

Time and time again, President Biden has failed to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable. Now, this Congress must act.

Last year, the China Task Force developed more than 400 commonsense solutions to counter the Chinese Communist Party's threat to our health, our economy, and our way of life. We could start by implementing these legislative solutions and restoring America's leadership in 21st century innovation.

As a Congress, we also should build upon the China Task Force's investigation into the COVID-19 pandemic origin, including whether the virus was engineered at the Wuhan lab.

Why delay? How many more Americans will need to be infected before we say "enough"?

As my friend, Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY has outlined, we need to demand

transparency, and we must seek justice. We need to get to the bottom of this question and allow the truth to come to light.

Thanks to American ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, our Nation has embarked on the long path to recovery. However, while new virus cases are on the decline, the pandemic isn't over.

For the families of more than 600,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19, grief still lingers.

For the thousands of Americans struggling with post-COVID syndrome, the virus remains a central part of their lives each and every day.

For small business leaders struggling to keep their doors open amid the current workforce shortage, there is still a crisis.

Holding China accountable for the pandemic is still very relevant. We cannot drag our feet. We cannot just move on.

This is the time for Congress to get serious about our oversight responsibilities and fully investigate the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, I urge Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats to join with Republicans in exposing this regime's blame in the pandemic and demanding answers from the Chinese Communist Party.

We must ensure that this hostile regime never again is allowed to unleash a virus onto our shores. As we have seen, lives and livelihoods are on the line.

### SCIENCE IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, more than 600,000 Americans have reportedly died from COVID-19; grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. The true

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2935